

*instituendo dissectiones, catellarum imprimis valde juvenum, &c.
ad rei certitudinem majorem.*

Seaventhly, from *Germany* we are inform'd, that in the University of *Jena* in *Upper Saxony*, one Mr. *Weigbelins*, Professor of the Mathematicks there, hath invented several ingenous Instruments and Engins; As first, an Astronomical one, which he calls *Astrodicticum*, by the means whereof very many persons shall be able at one and the same time to behold one and the same Star. Secondly, An exceeding great *Globe* of the *World*, capable of ten persons to sit in it all at once, and to behold the motions of the celestial Bodies, &c. Thirdly, An *odd Bridge*, or a kind of Stairs, by which a man shall descend and yet really be raised upward, and going as 'twere upon a plain shall, from a lower, by gently subliding, arrive to an upper story, &c. Of these and other particulars, said to be in part already done, and in part design'd by the said Mathematician, we hope we shall in time obtain a more satisfactory account.

*The Extract of a Letter written by Mr. John Ray to the Publisher from Midleton, July 3. 1671. concerning Spontaneous Generation; As also some Insects smelling of *Asuski*.*

Sir,

AS to the particulars contain'd in your Letter, I well remember, that Mr. *Lister* did, a good while since, write me his opinion concerning *Vegetable Excrescencies*, and the Insects therein bred and harboured; but the Letter containing that Discourse I have not at present by me, it being sent away in a bund'e of other Letters and papers into *Essex*. I have therefore written to him to desire him to take the pains himself to send you his thoughts upon that subject. *

Whether there be any *Spontaneous* or *Anomalous Generation* of Animals, as hath been the constant opinion of Naturalists heretofore, I think there is good reason to question. It seems to me at present most probable, that

* The Reader is like to find this Account in the Transactions of the next Month.

there

there is no such thing ; but that even all Insects are the natural issue of parents of the same *species* with themselves. *F. Redi* hath gone a good way in proving this, having

* Of this Author an Acc-
compt was given in *Aumb.*
66. p. 2436.

cleared the point concerning ge-
neration *ex materia putrida*.* But still
there remain two great difficulties.

The first is, to give an accompt of the production of Insects bred in the By-fruits and Excrescencies of Vegetables, which the said *Redi* doubts not to ascribe to the Vegetative Soul of the Plant that yields those Excrescencies. But for this I refer you to Mr. *Lister*. The second, to render an accompt of Insects bred in the Bodies of other animals. I hope shortly to be able to give you an accompt of the Generation of some of those Insects, which have been thought to be *Spontaneous*, and vvhich seem as unlikely as any to be after the Ordinary and Usual vway.

Of such an Insect, as you mention, feeding upon *Ranunculus*, vvhich vwhen dried yields a Musky scent, I have no knowledge. I can at present call to mind but two sorts of Insects that I have seen, which smel of Musk. The one is like the common *Capricornus* or *Goat-chaser*, which is mention'd by all Naturalists that vwrite of Insects, and vvhich smels so strong of that perfume, that you may scent it at a good distance as it flies by, or sits near you. The other is a small sort of *Bee*, vvhich in the South and East-parts of *England* is frequently to be met withal in *Gardens* among flowers in Spring-time. I remember, they vvere very plentiful in Sir *Edw. Duke's Tulip-Garden*, vwhen the Tulips flowred. Sir *Edward* is now dead; his house was not far from *Saxmundham* in *Suffolk*; the name of the Pa-
rish I have forgot.

I have by me the Description and Anatomy of a *Porpes*

* When this shall come to hand, we intend to communicate it to the Curious, the ingenious Author permitting it.

(vvhich fish I happily met vwithal at *West Chester*) in vvhich there are some particulars, that I find not in the Descriptions of *Rondeletius* or others, which, if you please, I shall

send you *. I rest, &c.